

JACKIE'S EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS

Interactive Read Aloud Lesson Plan



ABOUT THIS STORY

In this heartwarming story about Christmas, Jackie doesn't have an ordinary holiday, he has an EXTRAORDINARY holiday. He is especially excited about Father Christmas visiting the east room of his house to decorate the family Christmas tree, light the candles on the pyramid, and leave gifts under the Tannenbaum. However, Jackie soon finds himself a bit embarrassed because he can't stop thinking about trains and wishing that Father Christmas might leave one for him. At the end of the day, Jackie reflects about his extraordinary holiday - as he always does - by drawing at his table.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Use prior knowledge to comprehend events in the story
- Learn new vocabulary
- Make personal connections to text
- Retell main events of the story
- Compare/contrast people or items in the story

Themes: Family, Traditions, Cultures, Thankfulness

Common Core Reading Standards:

K-4: Key Ideas and Details: RI.K.1-3, RI.1.1-3, RI.2.1-3, RI.3.1-3, RI.4.1-3

K-4: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: RI.K.7 & K.9, RI.1.7 & 1.9, RI.2.7 & 2.9, RI.3.7, RI.4.9

Common Core Writing Standards:

K-4: Research to Build and Present Knowledge: W.K.8, W.1.8, W.2.8, W.3.7, W.4.9

Common Core Social Studies Standards:

K-4: Analyze, Change, Continuity, and Context: SS.K.17, SS.1.21, SS.2.21, SS.3.28, SS.4.20

Common Core Math Standards:

K-4: Measurement and Data: K.MD.A.1, 1.MD.A.2, 2.MD.A.1, 2.MD.A.3, 3.MD.B.3, 4.MD.A.3

Common Core Science Standards:

K: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes: K.LS1-1

Pre-Reading Discussion/Questions

Introduce the story and read “About This Story” to your students. Have them predict if they think Father Christmas will leave a train for Jackie.

What comes to mind when you think about Christmas? What traditions do you and your family have?

What is your favorite treat at Christmas?

During Reading Questions

Page 1 - What does extraordinary mean? Turn and talk to a partner about what you think will make Jackie’s holiday extraordinary.

Pages 2-3 - What is an advent calendar and how do they work?

Pages 4-5 - Have your parents/grandparents ever given you a “special treat” before a meal on a holiday? How did that make you feel?

Pages 6-7- Turn and talk to a partner, What is a tradition? What traditions does your family observe?

Page 10-11 - Have you ever wished for something so hard all you could do was think about it?

Page 14-15 - Why was Jackie so embarrassed (red in the face)? Think to yourself about a time when you were embarrassed.

Page 20-21 - What do you think Jackie might find in the east room?

Page 30 - Why is it important to reflect about your day? What do you think Jackie drew about that evening?

Reflecting on the *Primary Sources* in the book

Title Page Photograph: What do you observe in this photograph? Why do you think this photograph was taken? What is familiar/unfamiliar?

Page 7 Photograph: What caught your eye when you first looked at the photograph? Identify the place where the photograph was taken? What questions do you have?

Page 13 Photograph: What characteristics do you notice that are familiar? Unfamiliar? This is a German Father Christmas, what caught your eye first? What are you wondering?

Page 15 Photograph: This is the Middle Amana Church, what caught your eye first? What do you notice? Think about the photograph, what can you learn from it? What is familiar? Unfamiliar? What questions do you have?

Page 19 Photograph: This is the train and depot in Amana, Describe the photograph in detail, people, place etc. What can you learn from this photograph? If you took this photograph today, would it look the same? What are you wondering?

Page 21 Photograph: This is a family Christmas picture taken in 1908, what do you notice? What is familiar? Unfamiliar? Describe the photograph in detail. Why do you think this photograph was taken? Identify the place this photograph was taken.

Page 25 Photograph: Hahn Family pyramid - What caught your eye first? Why was this photograph taken? What are you wondering? Describe in detail the photograph.

Post-Reading Questions

Why was Jackie so excited about Christmas?

What was special/unique about his family's traditions?

Do you think Jackie would have been disappointed if he hadn't received a train set? What makes you think that?

How does the author let you know about the sights and smells of Jackie's Christmas?

Post-Reading Assignments

Writing:

Compare and contrast the Christmas celebrated in the story with Christmas celebrations that you know of today and/or *compare and contrast* the Jackie character with yourself and write about your findings.

Think about what an extraordinary holiday would be like for you. What would you draw? Draw your picture and write in your journal about your extraordinary holiday.

Science:

Pine Cone Christmas Tree

Place cones in water. Then roll them in potting soil and sprinkle with grass seed. Place in a sunny window and water lightly regularly, then watch as your pine cone turns into a mini Christmas tree.

Math/Social Studies:

Use a United States map. Locate the Seven Villages of Amana in Iowa. How far is it from your school to the Amana Colonies? What direction do you need to travel from your school to the Amana Colonies? How long would it take to drive to the Amana Colonies?

Extension Activity: Find the Ronneburg Castle and where it is located in Germany. Next, locate Ebenezer, NY - how far was it for the first Amana immigrants to travel from Germany to New York? Research to find out about how many days, weeks, or months it took them to travel by ship? Then have students calculate how far it is from Ebenezer, NY to Amana, IA. How long do you think it took them to travel by horse and buggy/oxen from NY to IA?

What other holidays are celebrated during the winter? (i.e. Hanukkah, Las Posadas, etc.) What do these holidays all have in common? What traditions do those families have?

German Words

Oma - Grandma

Opa - Grandpa

Tannenbaum - Christmas tree

Stollen - Christmas fruitcake

Fröhliche Weihnachten - Merry Christmas

Vocabulary: using a kid friendly dictionary like the Cobuild, look up the vocabulary words below and fill in a Frayer model word diagram or one of your own.

Extraordinary	Aroma	Mesmerized	Sheepishly
Twine	Daydreaming	Musing	Ordinary
Startled	Heart full of...	Advent Calendar	
Tradition	Ponder	Savouring	

Websites

<https://amanacolonies.com/>

<https://amanaheritage.org/event/prelude-to-christmas/>

https://www.vistawide.com/german/christmas/german_christmas_foods.htm

<https://www.thecraftycrow.net/2012/11/35-great-homemade-advent-calendar-ideas.html>

Related Books

My First Christmas Carols - by Tomie dePaola

The Legend of the Poinsettia - by Tomie dePaola

Cobweb Christmas: The Tradition of Tinsel - by Shirley Climo

Gingerbread Baby - by Jan Brett

Grandma's Gift - by Eric Velasquez

About the Authors

The Hahn Sisters grew up in the German-settled village of Middle Amana. They were always called and recognized by the community as, "The Hahn girls." Their first job was in the family bakery which is attached to the house that they lived in with their Oma, Opa, and parents. It is still in operation today. The Hahn Sisters are retired master educators and enjoy spending time with their husbands and extended family. They are avid Iowa Hawkeye fans, enjoy traveling, reading, the outdoors, and baking.

The Hahn Sisters enjoy hearing from educators and children about Little Jackie Carroll books. Please feel free to contact them:

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